

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04323 260847Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OES-06 /102 W
-----260852Z 123785 /11

O R 260800Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2166
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4323

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN
SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF DESAI'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: NEW DELHI 4311 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING ARE FOREIGN POLICY EXCERPTS FROM OFFICIAL
TRANSCRIPT OF MORARJI DESAI'S MARCH 24 PRESS CONFERENCE.

NON-ALIGNMENT:
QUESTION: DO YOU ENVISAGE ANY CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY?
PRIME MINISTER: THE FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IS THERE
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FOR INDIA. IT WILL BE A PROPER NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY. THAT
IS, IT WILL BE FULLY NON-ALIGNED, NO SUSPICION OF ANY
ALIGNMENT WITH ANYBODY. THAT IS HOW WE WILL HAVE
TO WORK IT.

INDO-SOVIET TREATY:
Q. WILL YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT INDIA'S FUTURE

RELATIONS WITH THE SUPER POWERS - UNITED STATES
AND SOVIET UNION? AND SPECIFICALLY, DO YOU
SEE ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS OR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY?

PM: IF INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY INVOLVES ANY
WANT OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE OTHERS, THEN IT WILL
HAVE TO BE CHANGED. AT LEAST, WE WILL NOT ACT UPON
IT IN THAT MANNER. IT MUST NOT COME IN THE WAY
OF OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH ANY OTHER STATE. AND
THAT IS HOW WE WILL WORK IT. BUT WE CANNOT DISOWN
WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE PAST GOVERNMENT IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LIKE THAT. BUT IF THERE IS
ANYTHING WHERE WE FIND THAT IT HURTS THE INTERESTS
OF INDIA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES,
THEN WE WILL CERTAINLY NOT DO IT. THEN IT IS
LEFT TO RUSSIA TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO DO.

Q: IF I MAY FOLLOW UP MY QUESTION, DO YOU ENVISAGE THAT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO
WESTERN INVESTMENT?

PM: THESE ARE VERY BLANKET QUESTIONS AND YOU CANNOT GET
A REPLY FROM ME NOW.

NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS:

Q: WHAT IS YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE QUESTION
OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS?

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PM: WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN ATOMIC WEAPONS AT ALL. THAT
POLICY STANDS. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT IS
NECESSARY TO HAVE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL
PRUPOSES. IF IT IS NOT NECESSARY, IT SHOULD NEVER
BE DONE.

INDIANOCEAN:

Q: INDIA'S POLICY IN REGARD TO THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS
BEEN BIASED AGAINST THE USA AND IT HAS NOT PAID
SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES
OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE
ADJACENT STATES.

PM: WELL, TWO WRONGS DO NOT MAKE ONE RIGHT. THE U.S.
ALSO SHOULD REALISE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE THEIR
ACTIVITIES HERE AND WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE THAT
SOVIET RUSSIA ALSO SHOULD NOT HAVE THEIR ACTIVITIES.
WE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL TREATMENT FOR BOTH AND THEREFORE
ON THAT SCORE I HAVE NO DOUBT. I CANNOT SAY WHAT THE

ACTUAL POSITION IS JUST NOW BECAUSE I HAVE NOT STUDIED IT. YOU DO NOT EXPECT ME TO BE COMPLETELY WISE ON EVERYTHING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MY ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE.

UNITED STATES:

Q: YOU HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE FOREIGN POLICY.....

PM: YOU SEEM TO BE STUCK ON FOREIGN POLICY.

Q: YOU SPOKE ABOUT THE FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU ENVISAGE THE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

PM: THE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WILL BE CORDIAL AND GOOD PROVIDED THEY ALSO RECIPROCATE. IS THAT SATISFACTORY? WE WON'T ALLOW OUR RELATIONS WITH ONE COUNTRY TO COME IN THE WAY OF RELATIONS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ANOTHER COUNTRY. IS THAT ALL RIGHT? WE WILL NOT HAVE ANY SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY. IS THAT ALL RIGHT? DO YOU WANT ANYTHING MORE?

Q: NO, SIR.

PM: ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU.

MIDDLE EAST:

Q: WHAT IS YOUR POLICY ON THE QUESTION OF INDO-ARAB RELATIONS?

PM: WE WILL HAVE OUR ATTITUDE OF SEEING WHO IS RIGHT AND WHO IS WRONG. WE WILL SUPPORT WHOEVER IS RIGHT AND NOT SUPPORT WHO IS WRONG.

Q: ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.....

PM: I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE UNIFORM RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLE.

Q: DO YOU THINK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.....

PM: WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MANY PEOPLE. WE CANNOT GO ON INCREASING OUR EXPENDITURE EVERY TIME. SO ALL THIS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. IT MAY HAVE TO BE CUT OUT FROM SOMEWHERE; IT MAY HAVE TO BE PUT SOMEWHERE. DO YOU WANT ME TO DO EVERYTHING ON THE FIRST DAY, OR DO YOU WANT TO CATCH ME NAPPING SOME TIMES? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? I HAVE HAD

RELATIONS WITH YOU; THEREFORE, I AM ASKING YOU.
I HOPE YOU HAVE CHANGED THAT ANGLE AT ANY RATE.

CHINA:

Q: CHINA HAS WELCOMED YOUR PARTY'S VICTORY. WILL
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THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN YOUR POLICY TOWARDS CHINA?
HAVE YOU ANYTHING IN MIND?

PM: AS I HAVE SAID, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF BEING
ANY PARTICULAR THING ABOUT ANY COUNTRY. WE
WANT TO BE FRIENDLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES, PROVIDED
IT IS RECIPROCATED IN A PROPER MANNER. WE MUST
HAVE RELATIONS OF EQUALITY. THAT IS WHAT WE SHOULD
DO.SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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